REMARKS

Claims 1, and 3-21 are active in this application. Claim 2 was canceled in the Amendment filed August 13, 2003.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

The rejections

of Claims 1-15, 17 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Betremieux et al in view of **Schueler et al**,

of Claims 1-13 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsubishi in view of **Schueler et al**,

of Claims 16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Betremieux et al in view of **Schueler et al** and further in view of Pfleger,

of Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Betremieux et al in view of **Schueler et al** and further in view of Bertero et al,

of Claims 1-15, 17 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Betremieux et al in view of **Bartz et al**,

of Claims 1-13, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsubishi in view of **Bartz et al**,

of Claims 16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Betremieux et al in view of **Bartz et al** and further in view of Pfleger ,

of Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Betremieux et al in view of **Bartz et al** and further in view of Bertero et al

are **moot** in view of the fact that the present application and **Bartz et al** as well as **Schueler at al** were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by Degussa AG. Thus, the **exemption under 103(c)/102(e)** is applicable and above rejections should be withdrawn.

In addition, Applicants have performed a patent family search for Bartz et al (U.S. 6,579,581). CA 2,351,152 which belongs to the patent family of Bartz et al published on December 23, 2001, before the U.S. filing date of the present application which is December 26, 2001. Thus, CA 2,351,152 qualifies as a prior art reference. However, Applicants submit herewith a Certified English translation of the German priority document of the present application (DE 100 65 177.1, filed December 23, 2000) in order to prefect priority.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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